



September 20, 2015

(b) (6)

Location Code: GKMTW12, GKMSE24, GKMSE25, and GKMSE26

(b) (6)

Durango, CO 81301

Dear (b) (6),

Thank you for providing access to your property to collect sediment samples. In some cases, surface waters may have been taken with associated sediment samples, if appropriate. We are attaching copies of the validated sample results which we have received to date.

Enclosed are the test results for your private water well. The test results for your well water were compared to the National Drinking Water Standards, otherwise known as the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The results of the analysis are provided in the enclosed table. Though these standards do not apply to private domestic water wells such as yours, we have included the enclosed table so that you may compare the results with the Drinking Water Standards. **None of these metals were present in the water sample(s) collected from your property above a level of concern for human health exposure.**

EPA has also established National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations that set non-mandatory water quality standards for 15 contaminants. EPA does not enforce these "secondary maximum contaminant levels". They are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the secondary maximum contaminant level.

The concentration of iron in your well water collected before treatment (GKMTW12_080915) was above the secondary maximum contaminant level for iron which is 300 µg/L. Iron is an essential element for human nutrition; however, high iron can cause constipation and other gastrointestinal effects. In addition, high iron may stain household fixtures and impart a metallic taste and red color to the water.

The concentration of manganese in in your well water before treatment (GKMTW12_080915) was above the secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 µg/L. High manganese can impart

an unpleasant taste and odor to drinking water and can cause mineral deposits on plumbing features. The EPA Health Advisory for manganese is available at this location:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/pdfs/reg_determine1/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport.pdf

EPA has worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to evaluate the conditions in the Animas River following the incident. Surface water and sediment samples collected throughout the watershed have demonstrated the river has returned to pre-event conditions. Samples collected from your property are consistent with the other samples collected after the river returned to pre-event conditions. In addition, samples collected from your property also meet risk-based screening levels for recreational use.

If you have any health related questions regarding these test results, please contact Flannery O'Neil with the San Juan Basin Health Department (SJBHD) at (970) 247-5702; or to discuss your sample results with an EPA representative, please contact Cynthia Peterson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6879.

Sincerely,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

Enclosure